

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00

USIA-06 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 STR-04 /093 R

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TREASURY:MRYSS (SUBS)

USDA:GFRASER (SUBS)

EUR/RPE:JTMCCARTHY

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R 281108Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102267

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, OECD

SUBJECT: SEC GEN CONSIDERING FOOD SECURITY PROPOSAL
PREPARATORY TO XCSS DISCUSSION OF FOLLOW-UP TO STUDY OF
TRENDS IN WORLD SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF MAJOR AGRICULTURAL
COMMODITIES

REF: OECD PARIS 11339

1. WASHINGTON AGENCIES BELIEVE A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF
WORLD AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES COULD BE USEFUL, BUT ONLY
IF ITS CONCLUSIONS WERE NOT PREJUDGED BY AN "ASSUMPTION
OF THE CONTINUATION OF EXISTING POLICIES" WRITTEN INTO ITS
TERMS OF REFERENCE. IN LIGHT OF EC AND JAPANESE POSITIONS
STATED REFTEL, WE WOULD OPPOSE ANY NEW STUDY AT THIS TIME.

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2. U.S. ALSO OPPOSED TO THE FORMATION OF AN AD HOC GROUP

ON FOOD SECURITY. WORK LIMITED TO FOOD SECURITY, WOULD BE
DUPLICATIVE OF DISCUSSIONS UNDERWAY IN THE INTERNATIONAL
WHEAT COUNCIL, AND LIKELY TO LEND SUPPORT TO THE EC'S
POSITION IN FAVOR OF A PRICE STABILIZING COMMODITY
AGREEMENT RATHER THAN THE U.S. PREFERENCE FOR A QUANTITA-
TIVELY-TRIGGERED FOOD SECURITY SYSTEM. TREATMENT OF FOOD
SECURITY IN THE FAO AND THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL ALREADY
RISKS CONFUSING THE IMPORTANT ISSUES.

3. WE ANTICIPATE THAT U.S. COMMENTS AT XCSS WILL BE
RESTRICTED TO EXPRESSION OF REGRET THAT LIMITATIONS
IMPOSED ON PREVIOUS STUDY PREVENTED ITS GREATER UTILITY
AND AN INDICATION THAT WE WOULD SUPPORT A BROADER, AND
LESS RESTRICTED, STUDY AT SOME FUTURE TIME IF OTHER MEMBERS
WOULD AGREE. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLICATIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE102267
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PDTAYLOR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760161-0754
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760411/aaaaaiqb.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 OECD PARIS 11339
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 AUG 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECGEN CONSIDERING FOOD SECURITY PROPOSAL PREPARATORY TO XCSS DISCUSSION OF FOLLOW-UP TO STUDY OF
TAGS: EAGR, OECD
To: OECD PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006